

March 13, 2025
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Chair Russel Moss called the five hundred ninety-seventh meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 7:06 p.m. Thursday, March 13, 2025.

DIRECTORS	Todd Boellstorff	Dan Hodges	Alan Romine
PRESENT:	Patty Coates	Doug Iske	Eldon Snoke
	Kraig Coonce	Dick James	Dan Stukenholtz
	Ed Ehmen	Robert Lassen	Duane Sugden
	Tracy Ensor	Tim Loseke	Kevin Thorne
	Orval Gigstad	Russel Moss	

DIRECTORS	Rob Bohling	Tim Schaardt
ABSENT:	Randy Fox	Mike Speece

STAFF	Kyle Hauschild, Manager
PRESENT:	Jane Kuhl, Assistant Manager
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager
	Charlie Pierce, Resources Specialist
	Brooke Gerdes, Administrative Bookkeeper

GUESTS	Mike Burgert, NRCS, Syracuse
PRESENT:	

Moss announced that the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall at the back of the room.

2. **PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

Proof of publication was presented and is on file.

3. **OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTORS**

The oath of office was administered to Todd Boellstorff, Kraig Coonce, and Ed Ehmen.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Excused Absences: Rob Bohling, Randy Fox, Tim Schaardt
- b. Minutes: No changes.
- c. Treasurer's Report: Questions about the UBN 7-A easement expense were addressed.

Sugden moved, seconded by Lassen, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Coates, Coonce, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Fox, Schaardt, Speece

5. OPEN FORUMS

NRD directors, staff, and NRCS staff introduced themselves.

6. STAFF REPORTS

Hauschild briefly reviewed some items from his report.

Charlie Pierce gave the annual water resources report which covered the Nitrogen Reduction Act, the pivot nozzle grant project, the new study area around Adams, flowmeter readings, and water levels across the district.

7. AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**A. Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Burgert reviewed his report and commented on their staffing changes and workload.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported on the budget and provided handouts detailing it. He also discussed legislation, the proposed merger of DNR and DEE, and the NACD convention in Salt Lake City.

C. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Hauschild reported he attended the last meeting in Kearney to review our Water Sustainability Fund grant for the pivot nozzle program.

8. STANDING COMMITTEES**A. PROGRAMS & PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

1. Action On Well Permit Applications: Wingert reviewed the following applications:

Permit #	Landowner Name	Well Location	GPM	Purpose	Score
N844	A&K Rippe	SE¼ NW¼ Section 26-4-13, Nemaha Co.	600	Irrigation	201
N845	A&K Rippe	NE¼ SW¼ Section 22-4-13, Nemaha Co.	600	Irrigation	244
N846	A&K Rippe	NE¼ SW¼ Section 22-4-13, Nemaha Co.	600	Irrigation	239

Hodges moved, seconded by Boellstorff, to approve well permits N844, N845, and N846 for A&K Rippe. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Coates, Coonce, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Fox, Schardt, Speece

2. Discussion/Action on Non-Compliance with Irrigation Well Flowmeter

Requirement: Hodges reported that the landowner installed the flowmeter; therefore, the issue was resolved. No action.

3. *Discussion on Groundwater Rules/Regulations Updates:* Hodges reported that the committee had met at the end of February and had good discussion regarding potential updates.

Hodges moved, seconded by Sugden, that due to continued drought conditions and declining groundwater levels over areas of the Nemaha Natural Resources District, the Programs and Projects Committee makes a motion to impose an immediate, temporary stay for a period of up to 180 days on the issuance of any new well permits, the increase in the number of acres historically irrigated and the transfer of groundwater as allowed under Nebraska Revised Statute 46-707(2). Previously approved, unexpired well permits, replacement wells, public water supply wells, and well permits for wells designed to pump 50 to 150 gallons per minute will continue to be allowed along with testhole drilling and conversions from gravity to pivot irrigation. Wingert clarified that this stay would allow time to work on the rules and regulations updates. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

AYE: Boellstorff, Coates, Coonce, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Fox, Schaardt, Speece

B. OPERATIONS & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. *Action on Annual Lease with Lynn Binder for Steamboat Trace Access:* Ensor explained the purpose of the lease and the option to increase it each year. However, the committee decided to leave it at the same rate as last year.

Ensor moved, seconded by Thorne, to approve renewal of the lease with Lynn Binder for operation of an overhead conveyor and winch on the Steamboat Trace at a rate of \$600. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Coates, Coonce, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Fox, Schaardt, Speece

2. *Possible Financial Assistance for Falls City FFA National Land Judging Team:* Ensor explained that Falls City was the only school from our district to qualify for this contest in May.

Ensor moved, seconded by Gigstad, to sponsor and pay the registration fee of \$315 for the Falls City FFA to attend the National Land Judging Contest in May. There was some discussion about asking the group to attend a board meeting or send a video report. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Boellstorff, Coates, Coonce, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Fox, Schaardt, Speece

3. ***Memorandum of Understanding with Lower Big Blue NRD for Tree Purchases:***
Ensor explained this would provide volume discounts for both NRDs.

Ensor moved, seconded by Lassen, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Lower Big Blue NRD for tree purchases. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Coates, Coonce, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Fox, Schaardt, Speece

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. ***Action on Amended Interlocal Agreement for Southeast Weed Management Association:*** Romine explained that the new agreement adds Cass County as a member.

Romine moved, seconded by Hodges, to approve the amended interlocal agreement for the Southeast Weed Management Association. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Coates, Coonce, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Fox, Schaardt, Speece

2. ***Review of Tuition Assistance Policy:*** Romine reported the committee reviewed the current policy and made suggestions for revisions. He added the revisions would be included in upcoming updates to the personnel policy. No action.
3. ***Discussion/Action on Quotes for Drone Spraying on 18 Watershed Structures:***
Romine stated that the bids came in significantly higher than the budgeted amount. Staff may negotiate to spray one test site at Prairie Owl instead.

Romine moved, seconded by Lassen, to reject all bids for drone spraying on 18 watershed structures. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Coates, Coonce, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Fox, Schaardt, Speece

4. ***Approval of Contract for Slip Lining 11 Watershed Structures:***
Romine moved, seconded by Iske, to approve the contract with SubSurface, Inc., for slip lining 11 watershed structures at a total cost of \$604,200. Hauschild added

that some excess funds from the conservation cost-share work part of the budget might be used to slip line one additional site. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Boellstorff, Coates, Coonce, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Fox, Schaardt, Speece

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS, APRIL AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS**

The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the board meeting. Coates asked to provide a presentation to the Operations & Education Committee regarding the Urban Special Projects application from the Friends of Riverview Park. Hauschild provided an update on the fire near Prairie Owl, Legislative Conference, and UBN 7-A project.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Sugden moved, seconded by Thorne, to adjourn. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Coates, Coonce, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Fox, Schaardt, Speece

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District